

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A hard multilayer coating according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9, wherein each of said at least one first coating layer has an average thickness of 10-2000nm while each of said at least one second coating layer has an average thickness of 10-1000nm, and wherein said hard multilayer coating has a total thickness of 0.5-20 μ m.

4. (Currently Amended) A hard multilayer coating according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 9, wherein each of said at least one second coating layer further includes $(Ti_x Al_{1-x}) (C_y N_{1-y})$ wherein $0.20 \leq x \leq 0.60$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$.

5-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) A hard multilayer coating which is to cover a base material, said hard multilayer coating comprising at least one first coating layer and at least one second coating layer which are alternately superposed on each other,

wherein each of said at least one first coating layer consists of $(Ti_x Al_{1-x}) (C_y N_{1-y})$ wherein $0.20 \leq x \leq 0.60$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$, while each of said at least one second coating layer includes or consists of CrN,

wherein said at least one first coating layer consists of a plurality of first coating layers,

and wherein one of said plurality of first coating layers constitutes an outermost layer of said multilayer coating, while another of said plurality of first coating layers constitutes an innermost layer of said hard multilayer coating so that said another of said plurality of first coating layer is held in contact with said base material.

10. (New) A hard multilayer coating according to claim 9, wherein said base material is a tool substrate.

11. (New) A hard multilayer coating comprising at least one first coating layer and at least one second coating layer which are alternately superposed on each other,

wherein each of said at least one first coating layer consists of $(\text{Ti}_x \text{Al}_{1-x}) (\text{C}_y \text{N}_{1-y})$ wherein $0.20 \leq x \leq 0.60$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$, while each of said at least one second coating layer includes CrN and $(\text{Ti}_x \text{Al}_{1-x}) (\text{C}_y \text{N}_{1-y})$ wherein $0.20 \leq x \leq 0.60$, $0 \leq y \leq 0.5$,

and wherein one of said at least one first coating layer constitutes an outermost layer of said hard multilayer coating.